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PATENT
(5181-91401/P6357)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/872,360
Filed: May 31, 2001
Inventor(s):
Kan, et al.


§ Examiner: Unknown
§ Group/Art Unit: 2171
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-91401
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Title: **DISTRIBUTED
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Robert C. Kowert

Name of Registered Representative


Signature Date

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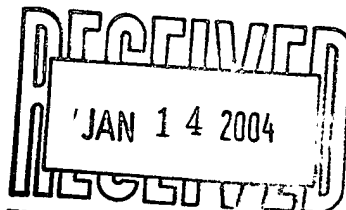
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

JAN 13 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

Sir:



Applicant requests consideration of ☒ the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or ☐ the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- a. ☐ within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
☐ within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;
☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or
☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.
- b. ☐ after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or ☐ a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

- c. ☐ after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified:

- ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☒ Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/106,731 (5181-93100)
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/106,600 (5181-93200)
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/106,604 (5181-92900)
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/106,601 (5181-93400)
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/106,398 (5181-93000)

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:

- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) _____, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:

5. ☐ Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:

6. ☐ Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.

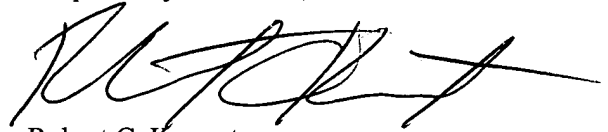
7. ☐ The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure

Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.

8. ☐ Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-91401/RCK.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Kowert
Reg. No. 39,255
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P. O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 853-8800

Date: January 8, 2004

**List of Patents and Publications
For Applicant's Information
Disclosure Statement
(Use several sheets if necessary)**

FILING DATE: May 31, 2001

GROUP: 2171

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	C1	6,161,102	12/12/00	Yanagihara, et al.			
	C2	6,070,158	5/30/200	Kirsch, et al.			
						RECEIVED JAN 13 2004 Technology Center 2100	

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	C3	829 811	3/18/98	EP			
	C4	00/62264	10/19/00	WO			

[illegible]

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.